

I claim:

1. A process for removing an organic contaminant from a surface comprising contacting the contaminant with a cleaning composition comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of

- (a) isobutyl isobutyrate
- (b) organic esters other than isobutyl isobutyrate having 6 to 10 carbon atoms,
- (c) mixtures containing at least three esters selected from hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, and decyl acetates,
- (d) propylene carbonate, and
- (e) naturally-occurring esters having flash points of greater than 60°F and boiling points greater than 120°F.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein a contaminant selected from the group consisting of dried latex paint, uncured organic solvent based paint, adhesives, ink, chewing gum, tars, greases, glues, animal fats, vegetable oils, tree sap and other lipophilic soil is removed by contact with isobutyl isobutyrate.

3. The process of claim 2, wherein the contaminant is dried latex paint.

4. The process of claim 2, wherein the composition comprises at least 10 wt.% isobutyl isobutyrate.

5. The process of claim 4, wherein the composition contains at least 10 wt.% of a liquid carrier other than isobutyl isobutyrate.

6. The process of claim 5, wherein the isobutyl isobutyrate is dissolved in an organic solvent exhibiting a Primary Irritation Score of 5.00 or less under 16 CFR 1500.3(c)(4)

7. The process of claim 6, wherein the liquid carrier has an MIR of 2 or less.

8. The process of claim 6, wherein the composition has a flash point of at least about 100°F.

9. The process of claim 8, wherein the composition exhibits a Primary Irritation Score of 5.00 or less under 16 CFR 1500.3(c)(4).

10. The process of claim 5, wherein the composition has an MIR of 2.0 or less.

11. The process of claim 10, wherein the composition is substantially free of aromatic compounds and alkali metal hydroxides.

12. The process of claim 1, wherein the composition contains water.

13. A cleaning composition for removing dried latex paint and other contaminants comprising isobutyl isobutyrate and at least 1.0 wt.% of a liquid carrier, the composition being essentially free of aromatic compounds and alkali metal hydroxides.

14. The composition of claim 13, wherein the composition comprises at least 10 wt.% isobutyl isobutyrate.

15. The composition of claim 14, wherein the liquid carrier is an organic solvent exhibiting a Primary Irritation Score of 5.00 or less under 16 CFR 1500.3(c)(4).

16. The composition of claim 15, wherein the liquid carrier has an MIR of 2.0 or less.

17. The composition of claim 14, wherein the composition has a flash point of at least about 100°F.

18. The composition of claim 17, wherein the composition exhibits a Primary Irritation Score of 5.00 or less under 16 CFR 1500.3(c)(4).

19. The composition of claim 18, wherein the composition has an MIR of 2.0 or less.

20. A stable cleaning composition for removing dried latex paint and other contaminants comprising about 10 to 99 wt.% isobutyl isobutyrate,

the composition further containing water, a liquid carrier capable of dissolving or being dissolved in the isobutyl isobutyrate, or both,

the composition exhibiting a Primary Irritation Score of 5.00 or less under 16 CFR 1500.3(c)(4).